years are not available. Financial Provision of Union Government (Department of Health) during 2000-2001 was 2596 crores.

Quality of food in LHMC

3057. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of undergraduate students of Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC) have recently protested about poor quality food being provided to them in their hostel mess;

(b) if so, whether Government have enquired into the matter through independent agency;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed on those who have been providing poor quality food to students; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) According to the information received from Lady Hardinge Medical College, their undergraduate hostel mess was being run by the students with the staff provided by the Institution. During the last one year, only two complaints were received from the students, in which inadequate quality of the food being served in the mess was brought to the notice of the authorities. As a remedial measure, supervision over the mess staff was strengthened and wherever necessary administrative action including replacement of staff was undertaken. After great deliberation it has also been decided to start a cooperative mess system exclusively run by the students for which written permission has already been issued.

Indo-US joint ventures in Ayurveda

3058. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering proposal to sponsor practitioners of Ayurvedic System of Medicine to conduct

exposure sessions in American medical schools, to highlight the strength of Ayurveda and also for Indo-US joint research in Ayurveda; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the responses received from the U.S. private/Government agencies towards promoting Ayurveda as an alternate system of medicine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of proposals to conduct exposure sessions in Ayurveda in American Medical Schools and Joint Indo-US Ayurveda Research Projects. This is an area of interest as it would help propagate the strengths of Ayurveda. From proposals are, however, yet to be received but informal suggestions have been made for exposing medical students in selected colleges to the principles and applications of Ayurveda.

National Institutes on Ayurvedic, Allopathic and Homoeopathic Systems

3059. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National level institutions set up by Government in the field of Ayurveda, Allopathy and Homoeopathy;

(b) the location of these institutions;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to set up any such institute in Orissa;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) There are 29 important institutions under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the field of Ayurveda, Allopathy and Homoeopathy. The details are given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(c) to (e) There is no such proposal under consideration.